

Putting the “Pop” in Popcorn!

Reader 1:

Invite each student to pick up one kernel of popcorn and hold it in their hand.

This kernel is hard, small, and unappetizing by itself. But inside this shell is white, fluffy popped corn. The only way to get what’s inside out is to apply heat.

Reader 2:

Sign of the Cross

See this popcorn? (Hold up clear bowl of unpopped kernels) These are like a symbol for all of us as members of our faith community. We are created with beautiful potential inside of us. Our faith and our gifts dwell within in us from the moment we are conceived. When we go it with God, we can become something wonderful. Without God, we are simply hard and unappetizing kernels.

Reader 3:

See this popper? (Hold up the popcorn popper) This is a symbol for the Church, a place where we are all invited by Christ. (Pass the popper to the next speaker)

Reader 1:

(Hold up the popper) The heat in the popper is a symbol for God, The Holy Spirit. God sends us the fire of His Spirit in Confirmation and beyond to help us bring out our gifts and be the best people we can be. Together, with other kernels, we become God’s sweet smelling community, feeding others in need.

Reader 2:

See this salt and this butter? (Hold up condiments) These are a symbol for the Sacraments. The Sacraments make us more flavorful and appealing, more Christ-like. When we participate in them, they give us the strength to continue sharing ourselves with others.

Reader 3:

Lord, thank you for gathering us together today. Today we begin our journey toward Confirmation. May we be open to the heat of your Spirit in our lives and allow your word and your Church to become a very part of ourselves. May we be compassionate to others on the journey and open to sharing our joys and sorrows, excitements and concerns with each other. God bless our young people and bring them peace amidst the busyness of a new school year. May this day be a special time set apart for you Lord.

God bless our team as they share their time and their example with these young people.

Reader 1:

Begin the popcorn popper.

Student:

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN, CHAPTER 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.

Pause for 30 seconds of silent reflection.

Reader 2:

Notice how some of the kernels, like people, respond more quickly and that, when they are fill with the heat (like the Holy Spirit), all dance around, even sometimes moving the popper (like people move the Church).

(wait until popping is complete)

Reader 3:

But wait, the lesson is not over. Some of the kernels do not pop. They were in the same heat for the same length of time. That is like the people who come to Church but don't let it make any difference in their everyday lives.

Reader 1:

Which type of kernel do you want to be? As you snack on the popcorn at your table today reflect on how you want to allow the Spirit to work in your life.

In Jesus name, we pray.

Amen.